



## **SISHYA Newsletter**

August & September 2012

Greetings to you in the matchless Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are grateful to God for His faithfulness. He has sustained us thus far and continued to use us for His kingdom's expansion. The last two months were a great blessing for us as a ministry.

### **Ministry at Churches**

#### **Youth retreat at C.S.I St. Andrew's Church**

Team Sishya ministered in the C.S.I St. Andrew's Church, Arakonam on the **8th of June 2012**. It was a blessing. The crowd varied from school students to working professionals. Many of them committed their lives to Christ. Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam spoke in the Worship service in the morning and also during the retreat.



*Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam preaching at the retreat*

The team ministered through skits and through small group time. Mr. Suthan David did the games and activities.



*An activity during the retreat*

#### **Youth retreat at C.S.I Peranbar Alayam**

The Sishya team got an opportunity to minister to the youth of C.S.I Peranbar Alayam, Aminjikarai on the **22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2012**. Mr. Swithun Manoharan was the main speaker who encouraged and challenged the youngsters. He spoke from the life of Joshua.



*Mr. Swithun Manoharan preaching at the retreat*

The team, along with Mr. Suthan David ministered through skits and songs, testimonies and small group time.



*Mr. Suthan David conducting an activity*

Miss Megha, who comes from a Brahmin background, shared her testimony, which was a challenge for many.



*Miss Megha sharing her testimony*

#### **Three Strands Seminar at C.S.I Ennore Church**

The C.S.I Church in Ennore invited the *Three Strands* team for a one day seminar on the **15<sup>th</sup> of August 2012**. Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam spoke while the team ministered through testimonies and activities. Five young couples attended the seminar.

## Student Ministry - Camps

### Discipleship Camp

Our vision being 'Disciples for Life', we have been conducting *Quo Vadis*, an annual discipleship camp during Pongal holidays. However, this discipleship camp was conducted from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of August at SU campsite, Mahabalipuram to encourage and motivate few of the youngsters who attended *Summer Tree '12* and showed interest in the ministry of Sishya.

Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam set the tone for the camp with Jeremiah 31:25 ("I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.") and spoke on the cost of discipleship from Mark 8:27 onwards in the first evening session.



*During a session at the discipleship camp*

Mr. Swithun Manoharan, Mrs. Cherub Rajaratnam, Allan, Ajith, Swarup and Mrs. Sheila Vedhanayagam addressed the other sessions.

The delegates were encouraged to be witnesses and to take a stand in their respective schools and colleges.



*Participants of the Discipleship Camp*

### Leadership Camp

Sishya's leadership camp was held at the SU campsite, Mahabalipuram from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2012. This was the first time we conducted a camp of this kind. The purpose was to train and equip students to go back to their place of study to start and lead small group Bible studies and prayer cells for the extension of God's Kingdom.



*Mr. Shankar leading a session*

Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam did a session on Mentoring; Mr. Wilson Jebaraj took a session on discerning your Spiritual gifts. Sishya's full timers, Shankar and Swarup also did a session each.



*Mr. Wilson doing a session*

Rev. Fred David from Malaysia was the main speaker.



*Rev. Fred David leading a session*

The leadership camp was a blessing to the ministry. As a result of the camp, new Bible studies have started. We praise God for young leaders like Arpith, Jakin and Yazhini who are handling Bible studies.



*Participants of the Leadership Camp*

## Ministry at Bangalore

July 2012

The Bangalore Sishya team organized a married couple's workshop on **28<sup>th</sup> of July**. The workshop was well attended with 16 couples and was anchored by Kumar Vethanayagam and his wife Shanthi. The workshop was well received by participants and it included talk time between the couples, activities, presentation of a song by the music team and a game.



Shanthi also spoke on being a wife and a mother during the weekly women's prayer meeting. Practical tips were shared from her experience of having played the role of a wife and mother.

Shankar had the opportunity of sharing about the ministry and work at an EGF home gathering.



The Friday night Bible study continues to take place at Shankar & Blodwen's house. Please pray that the Lord will help start a Bible study for college students in the city.

## August 2012

In the month of August, Shankar and Blodwen were able to visit a couple of homes of those who had attended Sishya programs. Follow-ups were done with some of those who attended the couples' workshop in July.

Shankar attended the leadership camp organized in Chennai and did a session on leadership. The Bible Studies and Home Builders' prayer fellowship (Tuesday women's prayer) is happening regularly.

Allan spoke at the youth fellowship at Indira Nagar Methodist Church. His message was well received.

## Community Development Ministry Ministry at Khammam, Andhra Pradesh

Bro Sam and Sis Vasantha had a fruitful time ministering in different places to various crowds. They ministered to the youth in Karepalli. They conducted a Pastors' retreat on the **6<sup>th</sup> of August** at Kodad where 25 Pastors attended and were challenged. They also conducted a meeting for Pastors in Karepalli in which 15 Pastors participated.

On the **15<sup>th</sup> of August**, Bro Sam and Sis Vasantha conducted the soul winners' training where almost

28 of the delegates testified saying the training was a blessing.

## Regular Team Activities

### Third Sunday Prayer with Mr. Patrick Joshua

This month's third Sunday prayer saw Mr. Patrick Joshua and Mr. Onassis do a session on prayer. They lead us in a time of prayer for various issues concerning the Nation and the Church. It was an enriching experience for all who attended.

## Weekly Bible Studies

Apart from the events mentioned above, the Sishya family was involved in the weekly Bible studies (CAT groups) for different age groups in different parts of the city. The CAT group for couples met every Tuesday in the Sishya office and every Friday at Tambaram. The CAT group for boys and girls met on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in different places.

## Pray For Us

The SEED team along with Mr. Wilson's family and Mr. Suthan David minister in Kothagiri Public School on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Kindly pray that God will use the team for His Kingdom's expansion. Pray for the new Bible studies that have been started and also for the leaders. Pray for the ministry in Bangalore and Khammam.

God Bless you.  
With regards,  
Sishya Family